



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: July 2, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Ballona Institute for development of a docent program and field guide for the Ballona Wetlands.**

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board authorize a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Ballona Institute for development of a docent program and field guide for the Ballona Wetlands.

Background: In 2006 the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy authorized a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the MRCA for "public access and interpretation of air, land, and water resources in the Ballona Wetlands portion of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed." In addition to a variety of staff programs, the grant also included money for non-profit grants to support and expand the efforts of non-profit organizations which currently provide programming at the Ballona Wetlands.

The Ballona Institute serves as an educational center for research, restoration, advocacy and exploration of the greater Ballona Wetlands ecosystem, including numerous geographic subareas in the Ballona Valley, Bluffs and Highlands. They are a project of the International Humanities Center, a 501 (c)(3) California charitable trust. The attached proposal includes curriculum development, the development and implementation of a docent program, an internship program and a pocket field guide of the wetlands. Staff believes the proposed budget of \$50,000 is reasonable and will provide much needed public access and interpretation at the wetlands.

Proposal and budget attached.